

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were pending in the application and have been canceled in favor of new claims 38-55. As will be addressed below, Applicant believes claims 38-55 are patentably distinct from the art of record.

With respect to claim 38, a configuration system is claimed that is capable of detecting the presence of a patient monitor that is unconfigured. Response to such a detection, the system displays a prompt to a user indicating the presence of the unconfigured patient monitor and, accepts from the user, a command linking data of the patient monitor to a portion of the display. Accordingly, the system automatically configures the patient monitor and central station to display the data in the portion of the display.

With respect to claim 49, a program is claimed that causes a computer to detect a patient monitor that is not configured to communicate with a central station and then display a prompt on a display requesting user-desired display parameters for displaying information received from the patient monitor at the central station. Thereafter, the computer is caused to automatically configure the patient monitor according to user-desired display parameters and prompt the user to mark the patient monitor with a patient identifier prior to associating the patient monitor with a patient.

These system overcome the drawbacks of prior art systems. In particular, while the prior art has identified that disposable transmitters are desirable, it has failed to recognize that linking the disposable transmitter and central station presents a significant bottleneck. The prior art has also failed to provide a solution for the problems presented when a transmitter intended for patient A is accidentally associated with patient B.

However, the claimed invention overcomes these problems by providing a system that automatically detects the presence of an unconfigured patient monitor and, thus, significantly reduces the bottleneck created by linking disposable transmitters with a central station. The linking process is further streamlined by automatically prompting a user to associate a detected patient monitor with a portion of the display and, responsive thereto, automatically configuring the patient monitor to communicate with the central station such that data from the monitor is displayed in the desired portion of the display.

Furthermore, the claimed invention overcomes the problem of accidentally linking monitors with the incorrect patient by encouraging the user to keep the monitor

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disassociated from any patient until it is configured. This is achieved by the claimed user prompts and the user interaction required to respond to the prompts.

In this regard, as called for in claim 49, it is possible to prompt the user to physically label the newly configured monitor before leaving the configuration system and attending to the patient. As such, when the user arrives at a patient with multiple patient monitors that have now been configured for specific patients, the label provides a clear indication of which monitor should be associated with a particular patient.

Therefore, the claimed invention simultaneously streamlines the configuration/linking process associated with portable patient monitors that report to centralized stations while also encouraging a protocol that reduces human errors that frequently arise when one has a plurality of disposable patient monitors and only one of the plurality of monitors is intended to be associate with a particular patient. In this regard, Application believe that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

For at least these reasons, Applicant believes the present application is now in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner disagree, as always, the Examiner if invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application. The Examiner is hereby authorized to deduct the fee for a one month extension of time for a large entity along with any additional fees arising as a result of this amendment or any other communication, from Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 21, 2005



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